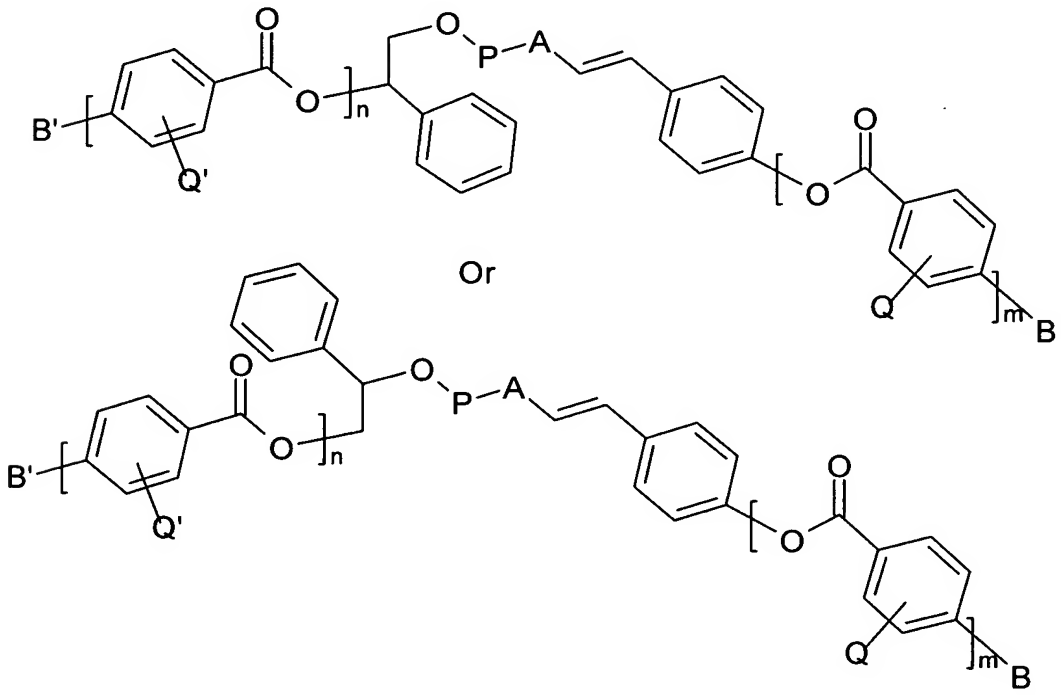
ABSTRACT:

The invention pertains to a phenylethanediol derivative having at least one polymerizable group, characterized in that the phenylethanediol derivative further comprises at least one photo-convertible group for adjusting the helical twisting power of the phenylethanediol derivative. According to a preferred embodiment the phenylethanediol has the formula



wherein

A stands for a bond or a p-phenylene group;

B and B' are independently $(O)_p$-C_oH_{2o}-O-CO-CR'=CH_2, o being 2-12, p being 0 or 1, and R' being H or CH_3;

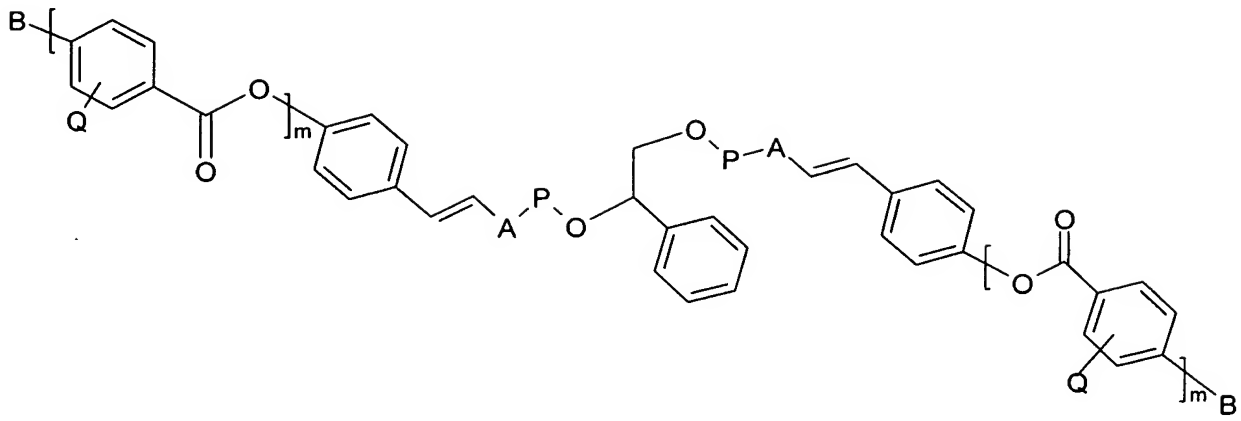
P stands for a CH_2 or a C=O group;

Q and Q' are independently selected from H, C1-C3 alkyl, C1-C3 alkoxy, halogen, and CN;

n is an integer from 1 to 3; and

m is an integer from 0 to 2;

and:



wherein

A stands for a bond or a p-phenylene group;

B is $(O)_p$-C_oH_{2o}-O-CO-CR'=CH_2, o being 2-12, p is 1, and R' being H or CH_3;

P stands for a CH_2 or a C=O group;

Q is selected from H, C1-C3 alkyl, C1-C3 alkoxy, halogen, and CN; and

m is an integer from 0 to 2.